

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the withdrawal of the prior final rejection of the claims. Claims 1-15 have now been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Beldham or Japan '292 in view of Denisar. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, and requests reconsideration of the claims.

Independent claim 1 is directed towards a method of washing laundry in a washing machine, and includes the step of "making a monetary payment to the machine corresponding to a selected quantity of detergent to be used during a wash cycle of the machine." Independent claim 9 is directed towards a washing machine, and requires "a pump operatively connected to the payment means and to the detergent reservoir to automatically pump a selected quantity of detergent from the reservoir to the tub, the selected quantity corresponding to the monetary payment." Thus, the monetary payment and the detergent quantity have a corresponding relationship.

The Examiner acknowledges in paragraph 3 of the office action that neither Beldham nor Japan '292 teaches the selection of the quantity of detergent corresponding to the monetary payment, in accordance with claim 1 and 9. The Examiner cites the Denisar patent as teaching a coin-operated dispensing system to overcome the deficiency of Beldham and Japan '292. However, Denisar does not disclose a detergent dispensing machine or method wherein the quantity of detergent dispensed corresponds to a monetary payment, as required by claims 1 and 9. As described at column 4, lines 50-58 of Denisar, the mixing chamber 130 has a volume which can be adjusted by turning a regulator plug 113. The plug may have a knob or handle 108, as described at column 5, lines 4-6. This adjustable volume mixing chamber of Denisar is best seen in Figure 2.

With respect to coin-operated washing machine, Denisar only discloses that the machine can be coin-operated such that "the consumer would have the option of adding a coin and having detergent automatically dispensed into the machine, or the consumer could choose not to put in a coin and could add their own detergent." See column 2, lines 62-column 3, line 3. There is no disclosure in Denisar that the coin or monetary payment corresponds to the volume of detergent dispensed. There is no disclosure in Denisar that a monetary payment corresponds to a selected quantity of detergent, as required by claims 1 and 9. Thus, Denisar does not overcome the deficiencies of Beldham or Japan '292.

Accordingly, claims 1 and 9 set forth unique structure, operation and results which is not satisfied by the cited references, alone or combination. Therefore, claim 1 and 9 distinguish over the references as to be in proper form for allowance. Claims 2-8 depend from claim 1 and claims 10-15 depend from claim 9, and should be allowable as depending from an allowable base claim.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that notice of allowance be issued.

No fees or extensions of time are believed to be due in connection with this amendment; however, consider this a request for any extension inadvertently omitted, and charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 26-0084.

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Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Kirk M. Hartung, Reg. No. 31,021
McKEE, VOORHEES & SEASE, P.L.C.
801 Grand Avenue, Suite 3200
Des Moines, Iowa 50309-2721
Phone No: (515) 288-3667
Fax No: (515) 288-1338
CUSTOMER NO: 27139

Attorneys of Record

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